

is normal. Ray<sup>1</sup> reported a specimen of *paludicola* from Alameda, California, which had several crown feathers and one secondary pure white.

TABLE 1. Measurements of Nestlings (in millimeters).

	The Day	j.h.	1day	2day	3day	4day	5day	6day	7day	8day	9day	10day	11day	12day
Total length.....	31		33	38	42	50	58	60	62	64	65	71	73	74
Extent .....	29		31	43	45	70	75	80	82	97	100	112	114	120
Wing .....	4		4.5	5	6	7	11	19	19	23	25	28	30	38
Tarsus .....	3.5		5	7	7	10	12	14	15	16	16	19	20	21
Middle toe and nail.....	4		4.5	5	6	7	9	11	11	13	13	14	15	15
Nail .....	.5		.5	1	1	1	2	2.5	2.5	3	3	3	4	4
Culmen .....	3		3	4	4	5	6	6	6	7	7	7.5	8	9
Gonys .....	2		2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3.5	4	5
Gape .....	5		5	7.5	7.5	9	11	11	11	13	13	13	13	14
Rictus .....	3		3	5	5	5	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
6th rectrix .....							.1	1	2	3	4	5	7	10
3rd rectrix .....							.1	1	2	3	5	7	9	14
1st rectrix .....							.1	1	2	2	4	5	7	10
1st primary.....						1	4	6.5	8	11	15	18	20	24
5th primary.....						1	4	6.5	9	11	15	19	21	25
10th primary..						1	2	3.5	6	7	10	11	13	16
1st secondary..						1	4	6	8	11	14	17	19	24
4th secondary..						.75	3	6	8	10	13	16	18	23
8th secondary..						.25	2	3	4	6	10	12	13	15

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE,  
MOREHEAD, KENTUCKY.

## THE OCCURRENCE OF WHITE HERONS IN THE YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO, REGION

BY M. B. SKAGGS

Since the late George L. Fordyce recorded the first American Egret to be seen at Pine Lake on July 29, 1918, other white herons have appeared frequently in the Youngstown, Ohio, area. Published records of these visitors, however, are very few. For this reason it seems desirable to place on record the pertinent facts regarding the appearances of these herons in the past sixteen years. The data here presented are from the notes of Mr. George L. Fordyce, Mr. G. M. Cook, Dr. J. G. Brody, Mr. V. McLaughlin, and the writer.

The three species concerned in this paper are the American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*), Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*), and the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*).

<sup>1</sup>Ray, Milton S. Notes from Alameda, California. Bull. Cooper Ornith. Club, 1:53, 1899.

Several small lakes are within twenty miles of Youngstown and prove quite attractive to migrating waterfowl. Of these, Pine Lake has had the most unusual bird visitors but interesting records have also come from Milton, Meander, Beaver, and Liberty Lakes. None of these lakes are more than three-quarters of a mile in width but they vary from one to seven miles in length. The accompanying map will show the location of these reservoirs.

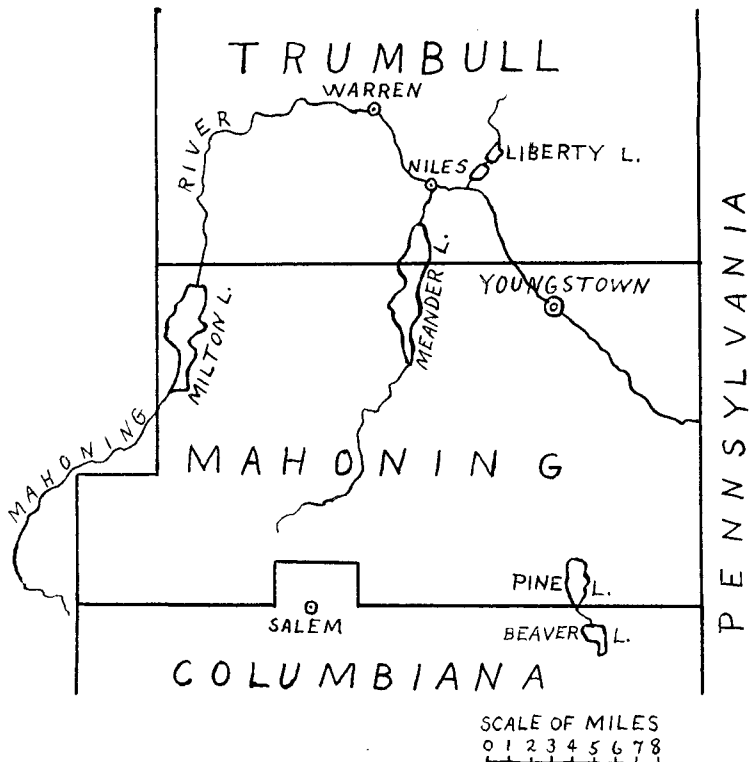


FIG. 47. Map of the Youngstown, Ohio, Region.

The first white heron, an American Egret, recorded for Youngstown by Fordyce on July 29, 1918, was again seen on August 4 and was last seen on September 5, 1918. No other white herons were noticed until 1924, when *all three* species appeared! Three Little Blue Herons were seen on August 7 and 8, one American Egret on

August 10 and 14 and two Snowy Egrets on August 14 and 15. All three birds were seen at Pine Lake by Fordyce and others.

In 1925 Mr. Fordyce saw a single American Egret at the same place on August first, second, and ninth.

The writer can find no published records until August, 1930, when Marshall<sup>1</sup> reported twenty-six Little Blue Herons and three American Egrets at Beaver Lake. The summer of 1930 was very dry and was noted for the large number of white herons appearing in all sections of Ohio. Since Hicks<sup>2</sup> in his summary of records of the 1930 occurrence of these herons in Ohio, gave no Youngstown records, the part of this paper dealing with that year may be considered as a supplement to his fine article.

All through August, 1930, American Egrets were present at Pine, Milton, and Beaver Lakes. A maximum of seven were noted on August 8. Little Blue Herons were numerous. On one occasion twenty-seven were seen in a group at Pine Lake. They were also present in smaller numbers at other lakes.

In 1931, only two American Egrets were noted. The date was August 9.

In 1932, three were seen on July 28, two on August 4, three on August 8, and the last ones were reported on September 15. One of these birds was found perched fully sixty feet from the ground in a tall tree, quite in contrast to most of the others seen wading in the shallow lakes.

The summer of 1933 brought even a greater wave of white herons than that of 1930, but this time the American Egrets were in the great majority. This was just the reverse of the 1930 situation. The feature of this season was the finding of a Snowy Egret on August 6 by Dr. Brody<sup>3</sup> and the writer. This bird still carried a few feathers of its occipital crest, a breeding season adornment. It was observed feeding in the characteristic manner, described by Peterson<sup>4</sup>, of standing on one foot while stirring up the water with the other.

A Snowy Egret seen on August 26 by Cook<sup>5</sup>, McLaughlin, and the writer was probably the same bird. All three observers saw the yellow toes as the bird flew against a background of green trees. When the bird alighted the orange-yellow lores and black bill were seen.

Snowy Egrets again appeared in 1934 and were reported by McLaughlin<sup>6</sup>. Seven were seen on August 14. They usually were in company of Little Blue Herons but were readily distinguished. On August 20, one observed was so active it seemed to be "running circles" around the slower moving Little Blue Herons.

TABLE 1. Showing Numbers of White Herons in Youngstown Region in 1933 and 1934.

		July 9	July 15	July 16	July 20	July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31	Aug. 2	Aug. 4	Aug. 5	Aug. 6	Aug. 7	Aug. 11	Aug. 12
American Egret	1933.....	2	5	4				41	52	50		8	8	14		
	1934.....					6						2				
Little Blue Heron	1933.....							1	2	2		5		2		
	1934.....			1	3	5					24	42		26	20	5
Snowy Egret	1933.....												1			
	1934.....											2		5	4	2

		Aug. 13	Aug. 14	Aug. 20	Aug. 25	Aug. 26	Sept. 2	Sept. 4	Sept. 12	Sept. 15	Sept. 16	Sept. 22	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 12
American Egret	1933.....	6				3	18	11	3						1	1
	1934.....	7	8	2		2				2	13	2	3			2
Little Blue Heron	1933.....			4		7	10	4	1							
	1934.....	30	39	14	5	10				8	3					
Snowy Egret	1933.....					1										
	1934.....	2	7	1						2	3					

It is perhaps worth mentioning that of all the Little Blue Herons seen in the Youngstown region, *not one* has been in the dark plumage of the adult bird.

So frequent were the records of southern herons in 1933 and 1934 that the accompanying table will simplify their presentation.

Bird students all over the country are elated over the increase in numbers of the American and Snowy Egrets in recent years after the Snowy Egrets had become nearly extinct in this country. It is hoped that these frequent occurrences of recent years in a northern state are a true indication of their status. May their tribes increase still more.

## LITERATURE CITED

1. Marshall, R. O. "American Egrets and Little Blue Herons at Beaver Lake." *Oölogist*, March, 1931; Vol. 48, p. 43.
2. Hicks, L. E. "The American Egret and Little Blue Heron in Ohio During the Summer of 1930." *WILSON BULLETIN*, Vol. 43, pp. 268-281.
3. Brody, Dr. J. G. Reported by Robert L. Baird in "The Season", *Bird-Lore*, 1933; Vol. 35, p. 273.
4. Peterson, R. T. "A Field Guide to the Birds." P. 13.
5. Cook, McLaughlin, and Skaggs. Reported by Robert L. Baird in "The Season", *Bird-Lore*, 1933; Vol. 35, p. 330.
6. McLaughlin, V. Reported by Robert L. Baird in "The Season", *Bird-Lore*, 1934; Vol. 36, p. 310.

CLEVELAND, OHIO.